UNITED
NATIONS

S

Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/1998/1169
15 December 1998
ENGLISH
ORIGINAL: FRENCH

# LETTER DATED 15 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MOROCCO TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Following publication of the report of the Secretary-General on the situation concerning Western Sahara (S/1998/1160), Morocco would like to draw your attention and that of the members of the Security Council to the need to draw a distinction between the Secretary-General's arbitration concerning the 65,000 applicants and all the other proposals contained in the protocols submitted to it by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

This arbitration, which is within the responsibilities of the Secretary-General under the Settlement Plan and the general settlement, confirms the right recognized to those applicants under the Settlement Plan, the criteria concerning identification, the compromise proposal on that interpretation of these criteria, the Houston agreements and the numerous reports of the Secretary-General which clearly stated that MINURSO must examine all applications submitted in due form.

The Kingdom of Morocco has been calling for recognition of the rights of these applicants since the start of the process and it therefore welcomed with great relief the Secretary-General's arbitration contained in his most recent report. It hopes that this arbitration will be carried out without delay so that the identification process may be completed and the other phases of the Settlement Plan may be embarked upon.

In so doing, the Kingdom of Morocco can in no way accept that these 65,000 applicants, who are almost twice the number presented by the other party, should be considered as falling in a second category and subject to conditions and procedures that are less favourable and in any event not consistent with the Settlement Plan.

With regard to the Secretary-General's other proposals, which were submitted by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations with a view to activating the process, the Kingdom of Morocco has transmitted its observations, comments, suggestions and requests for clarification to the Secretary-General, as indicated by the Secretary-General in his report. It reaffirms that it is prepared to pursue the dialogue with the Secretariat with a view to arriving at a compromise that will make it possible to meet its concerns

while safeguarding the integrity of the Plan and ensuring that the referendum process is accelerated.

The Kingdom of Morocco is convinced that the Security Council will take appropriate steps to identify the 65,000 applicants whose rights have been confirmed by the Secretary-General's arbitration and will allow the time needed for the completion of the ongoing discussions concerning the Secretary-General's other proposals.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated to the members of the Security Council as an official document.

(Signed) Ahmed SNOUSSI

---